is to accurately record, for the use of present and future generations, the ecological relationship of plants and animals within certain definitely circumscribed regions. This is especially desirable in those areas where civilization is rapidly encroaching upon and changing the native wildlife complex. It is here probably, rather than in remote wilderness regions, that we should devote most of our energy in accumulating factual material."

Dr. Orr has listed and discussed more than 150 species of birds found in the Big Basin State Redwood Park, San Mateo County Memorial Park, and adjacent areas.

Academy Receives Botanical Paintings

Three hundred paintings of California flowers have been donated to the Botany Department of the California Academy of Sciences by the artist, Stella Sherwood Vosberg of Pomona.

Miss Alice Eastwood, the Academy's Curator of Botany, places a high value on the pictures which are done with great accuracy and exact detail.

Aquarium Has Air-Breathing Fishes

The Steinhart Aquarium is in possession of two of the three known types of Lungfish, having two specimens of the Australian Lungfish (*Neoceratodus*) and one of the African Lungfish (*Protopterus*). The only type not represented is the South American Lungfish (*Lepidosiren*).

All lungfishes have gills as well as a modified swim-bladder which serves as a lung. As observed in captivity, the Australian Lungfish seems satisfied to live indefinitely under water, but the African Lungfish periodically "comes up for air."

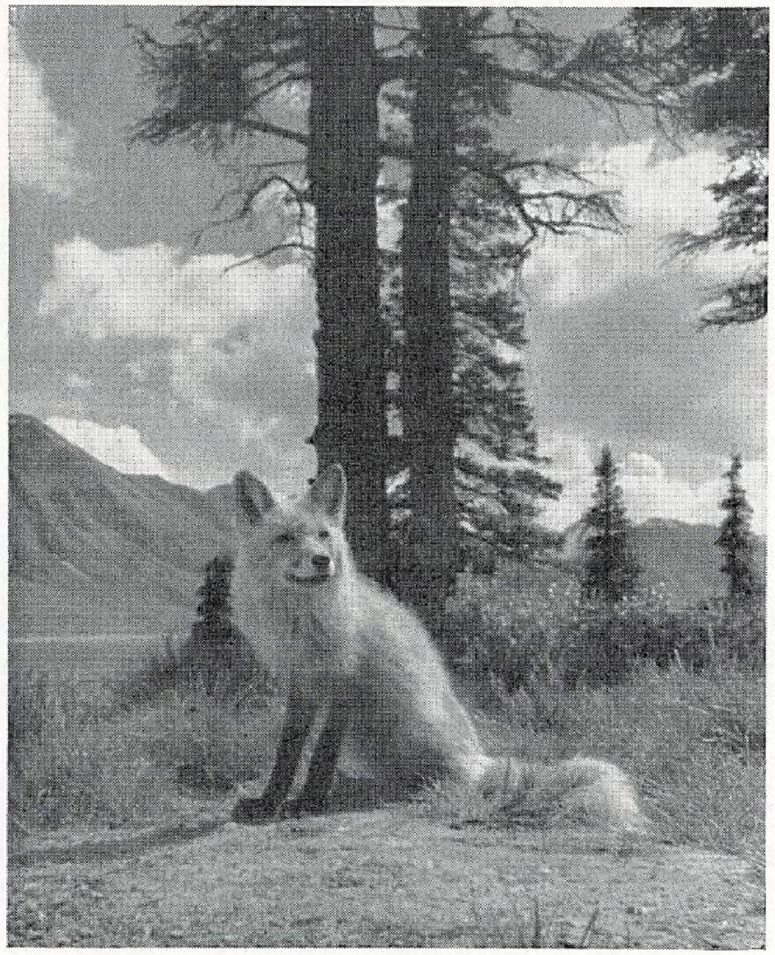
Student Members Meet on November 6

On Friday evening, November 6, student members of the Academy will meet in Room 214, Simson African Hall, in Golden Gate Park, at 8:00 o'clock. An interesting program is assured. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

Section 562 P.L.&R.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 35 November, 1942



ALASKA RED FOX
Photographed by Alfred Milotte

Scaife Lecture on November 5
(See inside page for announcement)

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November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market Street, on Thursday evening, November 5, 1942, at eight o'clock. A brief business meeting will be followed by the first of the autumn series of lectures on The Beauties of Nature, sponsored by the Walter B. Scaife Foundation. Mr. Alfred Milotte will present a colored motion picture entitled

ALASKA'S INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY

THIS IS A subject of keen interest to every American, especially at this time when transportation to our vast northern possession is of great importance in the defense of the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Milotte, at present head of the Department of Visual Education of North American Aviation, Inc., is primarily a photographer and adventurer. He and his wife spent nearly two years in the uncharted wilds of Alaska and northern British Columbia making a magnificent series of colored motion pictures along the route that will ultimately link the Alaska Territory and continental United States by highway.

The film begins by showing the present scenic water route to Alaska. From Fairbanks, in the heart of the gold country, the audience is led south through some of the most beautiful and spectacular scenery to be found in the northern wilderness. Vast mountain ranges, northern sunsets and autumnal foliage, as well as close-up views of big game, including charging grizzly bears, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, wolf, deer, fox and many birds are some of the outstanding attractions of this film.

Mr. and Mrs. Milotte have lived in Alaska since 1934 and during this period have gained an intimate knowledge of the Territory and the people of the Great Northern Trails. The author will personally introduce and explain the film.

The public is cordially invited.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all CORPORATE MEMBERS that the Council at its meeting, October 16, 1942, approved the applications of Mr. Brian Curtis, Mr. Philip S. Ehrlich, Mrs. Frank J. Frost, Dr. Hoyt R. Gant, Mr. Albert P. Jacobs, Mr. Edward Perkins, Mrs. Henry P. Russell, Mr. William Robert Johnston, Dr. Myra Keen, Miss Jean A. MacCallum, Mr. Frank J. McCoy, Dr. Audley O. Sanders, Mr. Eric J. Segerstrom, Mr. A. Sorensen, Dr. O. H. Speciale, Mr. Eliot Underhill, Mr. G. A. Urquhart, Mrs. Stella S. Vosburg, Mr. Charles Henry White, Mr. H. L. Zellerbach, and Mr. Edgar T. Zook for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after October 30, 1942, they will be considered elected.

WESTERN MUSEUMS CONFERENCE HELD AT LOS ANGELES

FOUR REPRESENTATIVES of the California Academy of Sciences attended the annual Western Museums Conference held in Los Angeles on October 10. Academy personnel attending the Conference were Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director; Mr. Frank Tose, Chief of the Department of Exhibits; Miss Velma Harris, Assistant in the Department of Exhibits, and Miss Alice Tose, volunteer worker in the same department.

Dr. Miller, as retiring President of the Conference, presided at the morning session held at the Southwest Museum. In the absence of the newly-elected President, Dr. F. W. Hodge, Dr. Miller also opened the afternoon session at the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art, and introduced Mr. Tose, who as Chairman of the Technical Section, presided during the remainder of the afternoon.

Between morning and afternoon sessions, luncheon was served at the Southwest Museum, persons attending the conference being guests of the Trustees and Staff of the Museum. At the conclusion of the afternoon session, tea was served in one of the very attractive halls of the Los Angeles County Museum.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, Dr. F. W. Hodge, Director of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles; Vice-President, Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, Director of the San Diego Museum of Natural History; Secretary, Mr. Arthur S. Coggeshall, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; Members of the Advisory Council: Dr. John A. Comstock, Associate Director (Science), Los Angeles County Museum; Dr. Grace McCann Morley, Director of the San Francisco Museum of Art; Mr. Reginald Poland, Director of the San Diego Museum of Art.

Sixty-eight individuals, representing seventeen institutions were in attendance at the Conference. An extremely valuable feature of the gathering was the interchange of ideas on war time problems of museums, and ways in which museum personnel can best contribute to the war effort.

DR. ORR PUBLISHES REPORT ON BIRDS

BIRDS OF the Big Basin region of California are the subject of a detailed report by Dr. Robert T. Orr, assistant curator of birds and mammals in the California Academy of Sciences. The report was recently published in "The American Midland Naturalist."

"Within recent years," Dr. Orr writes, "many regional studies have been made on the occurrence, distribution and habits of vertebrates within limited areas. These works have proven invaluable, not only in theory to the student of natural history but also in a very practical sense in aiding in the administration of certain of our national and state recreational areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

"One of the most important services that the field biologist can contribute